

English Language Summer Academy

Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation is Making it Happen!



WE ARE a K-12 public school corporation located in rural/suburban north-central Indiana, a stone's throw from the Michigan state line. During the 2015-2016 school year, Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation educated 10,720 students at Penn High School, our three middle schools, and our eleven elementary schools.

OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES are the heart of our district and reflect the demographics of the greater community PHM serves. 11% of our students come from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds. 26.7% of our families participate in Free and Reduced price meal programs. 2.5% of our students are English language learners.

OUR TEACHERS receive ongoing professional development in differentiating instruction for language, and training for implementing WIDA Standards in the general education classroom. Our ENL professionals participate in additional trainings and have formed a Professional Learning Community, supported by top administration. The PHM ENL PLC leads the way in teacher development and tracking student outcomes.

OUR PROMISING PRACTICE is an intensive three-week English Language Summer Academy, open free-of-charge to every elementary student who received ENL support services during the preceding school year. **E.L.S.A.** provides students guided practice in academic English--reading, writing, speaking, and listening in selected grade-level content areas. This summer, the curriculum featured Reading/Language Arts (including informational writing and a novel study), hands-on STEM studies (Life Science, Engineering/ Math, Coding), Theater (role playing), and Art (image making through the writing process). Our session culminated with a Family & Friends Finale with over 200 guests attending!

In 2014-2015, we renewed focus on best practices for supporting PHM's English language learners, capitalizing on what our students CAN DO, and seeking to move them more purposefully through the English language acquisition process. With the initial launch of **E.L.S.A.** in the summer of 2015--and after extensive ongoing training opportunities for professional ENL staff, ENL Instructional Aides, and General Education teachers---70% of our ELLs increased a MINIMUM of one proficiency level on the 2016 WIDA ACCESS for ELLs. The state average for growth in proficiency is around .5 level. In addition, 87% of our ELLs passed the 2016 I-READ 3 assessment. Parent involvement has also risen dramatically with our outreach and new ENL programming.

OUR STEPS We tapped every available resource (summer school funding, the USDA summer meal program, Title III and NESP, and our General Fund) and staffed our program with talented ENL teachers, offered free transportation, breakfast and lunch, and sought to enrich learning for all our elementary ELLs. Exceeding our expectations three-fold, well over half of those students have enrolled in **E.L.S.A.** each summer. With **E.L.S.A.** scheduled for the first three weeks of the summer, many students were able to extend their learning even further by participating in the three-week regular summer school session immediately following our academy.

IN OUR OWN WORDS ELSA Parent: "Thank you for what this did for my children. They learned so much and love to come to ELSA!"; ELSA ENL Teacher: "It was a joy to encounter my students' intense thirst for knowledge—and have time to nurture that."; PHM District Administrator: "Teacher, student, and family enthusiasm for the program—as well as positive achievement outcomes—strengthen our resolve to make it happen every summer." ELSA Kindergarten Student: "I L-O-V-E ELSA!"